

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 11, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that claims 1 and 11¹ include the language “one or more” thus making the claims unclear because they set forth non-equivalent alternatives.

Applicant respectfully submits that there is nothing wrong with the language “one or more” and that such language complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Further, Applicant respectfully requests clarification regarding that Examiner’s statement that the claims set forth non-equivalent alternatives. If the Examiner prefers, Applicant can amend the language to read “at least one” instead of “one or more.”

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-5 and 9-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morita (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0054664).

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6. Claim 6 has consequently been canceled. Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 6 contains

allowable subject matter, claims 1 and 11 and their dependent claims should also be deemed allowable.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-8 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

IV. New Claims

Applicant has added claims 16-21 to provide a broader scope of protection. Claims 16-20 should be deemed patentable by virtue of their dependency to claims 1 and 11 for the reasons set forth above.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

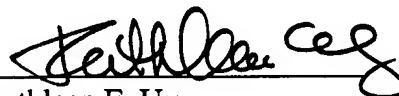
¹ The Examiner states that claims 1 and 15 include the language "one or more" however, it appears that the Examiner is referring to claim 11 instead of claim 15.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/606,782

Attorney Docket No.: Q76018

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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